

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
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PTO2210

E25

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01395 122031Z
ACTION BBG-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	PER-00	ACE-00	SS-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W		

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O 122007Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2781
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
FBIS ASUNCION PA

UNCLAS LA PAZ 001395

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, VOA/L, AND B/TVP
STATE FOR WHA/PDA - BYERS AND SCHINNERER, WHA/AND, WHA
EMBASSIES FOR PAO, IO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KPAO, PREL, PGOV, OIIP, OPRC, KMDR, BL
SUBJECT: MEDIA PLAY AND REACTION - CRISIS
IN VENEZUELA

1. ON APRIL 12 LA PAZ CENTRIST DAILY "LA
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RAZON" OPENED ITS EDITION WITH THE BANNER,
ABOVE-THE-FOLD HEADLINE: "VENEZUELA GOT
TIRED OF HUGO CHAVEZ AND KICKED HIM OUT."
THE STORY WAS CARRIED IN THREE INSIDE
PAGES UNDER THESE HEADLINES: "A MASSIVE
DEMONSTRATION HEATED EVEN MORE THE
INFLAMED SPIRITS." "THE 'BOLIVARIAN'
ASSUMED POWER AND DIVIDED HIS COUNTRY."
"THE U.S. ASKS FOR AVOIDANCE OF VIOLENCE
IN VENEZUELA." "THE GRUDGES OF WASHINGTON"
(A LIST OF USG COMPLAINTS ABOUT CHAVEZ IN
THE PAST). "CHAVEZ REJECTED DIALOGUE AND
TIRED HIS MOST LOYAL CHIEF." "GROUP OF RIO
BEGINS SUMMIT IN THE MIDST OF VENEZUELAN
CRISIS: THE CHIEFS OF STATE WILL ASSUME

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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TODAY A POSITION ON THE ISSUE." "EX-PRESIDENT PEREZ SAYS THAT CHAVEZ 'ESCAPED TO CUBA'."

2. LEFT-LEANING "LA PRENSA" CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE, BANNER, ABOVE-THE-FOLD HEADLINE THAT READ: "CHAVEZ FALLS, PEDRO CARMONA GOVERNS VENEZUELA." THE DAILY PUBLISHED THE STORY IN SEVERAL RELATED ARTICLES ON ITS TWO CENTRAL PAGES: "DISTURBANCES AND THE MILITARY FORCED CHAVEZ' RESIGNATION. A CIVILIAN IS THE LEADER OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT." "OAS AND THE U.S. MAKE A CALL FOR CALM." "JOY AMONG DETRACTORS." "INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK ASKS FOR DIALOGUE FOR
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DEMOCRACY." "QUIROGA WORRIED BY THE CRISIS."

3. "LA PRENSA" PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL TODAY ON "THE FALL OF CHAVEZ" WHICH SAYS IN PART: ".WHAT ONE CAN WISH, IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, IS THAT VENEZUELA RE-ESTABLISHES THE STATE OF LAW AND RESPECT FOR ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS SOCIETY WAS MOVING TOWARDS A DAMAGING POLARIZATION, AS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE FRATRICIDAL FIGHTS. A LESSON REMAINS FOR ALL LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS: THERE IS A CLIMATE OF PERMANENT CITIZEN VIGILANCE THAT IS PREVENTING ILLEGAL ACTS OF THOSE WHO EXERCISE POWER. THERE ALSO ARE DIFFICULT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE REGION, WHICH DEMAND FROM THE (LATIN) PRESIDENTS GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND A DETERMINED ATTITUDE TO COMBAT EVILS SUCH AS CORRUPTION AND POVERTY."

4. CONSERVATIVE LA PAZ DAILY "EL DIARIO" PUBLISHED THE NEWS IN ITS INTERNATIONAL, INSIDE SECTION: "HUGO CHAVEZ FELL." "RIO SUMMIT INAUGURATED AMONG ECHOES OF THE CRISIS IN VENEZUELA."
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